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IN THE CLAIMS:

Amended claims follow:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of authorising an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program, said core computer program being installed, said method comprising the steps of:
        reading module signature data associated with said additional computer program module;
        reading core signature data and other signature data associated with said core computer program;
        wherein said other signature data is user signature data;
        comparing said module signature data with said core signature data and said ~~other~~ user signature data; and
        refusing authorisation of said additional computer program module for use with said core computer program unless said module signature data matches at least one of said core signature data and said ~~other~~ user signature data;
        wherein the user signature data allows a particular user to authorize the additional computer program module for use with the installed core computer program.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said additional computer program module is refused authorisation for use with said core computer program unless said module signature data matches both of said core signature data and said ~~other~~ user signature data.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said module signature data, said core signature data and said ~~other~~ user signature data include public key infrastructure signatures.

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5.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~other~~ <u>user</u>
signature data is associated with said core computer program upon installation of said
core computer program.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said ~~other~~ <u>user</u>
signature data is embedded within said core computer program.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~2~~<u>1</u>, wherein said user
signature data is embedded within said core computer program by applying a user
specific patch to said core computer program.

8.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said core signature data is
associated with said core computer program upon generation of said core computer
program.

9.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said core signature data is
embedded within said core computer program.

10.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said core computer program
is an anti-virus computer program.

11.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said anti-virus computer
program operates with at least one updateable anti-virus computer program module.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said additional computer
program module provides functionality independent of that of said core computer
program.

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14.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said additional computer program module ~~provides~~ does not relate to anti-virus protection.

15.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said additional computer program module is operable to patch an installed computer program.

16.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said additional computer program module is operable to install another computer program.

17.   (Original) A method of generating an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program when authorised in accordance with the method of claim 1, said method comprising the steps of:

       writing said additional computer program module;

       receiving new user information from a new user of said additional computer program module;

       generating user signature data specific to said new user in dependence upon said new user information;

       associating said user signature data with said additional computer program module; and

       providing said additional computer program module with associated user signature data to said new user.

18.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said step of generating uses a tool produced by a provider of said core computer program.

19.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said step of associating uses a tool produced by a provider of said core computer program.

20.   (Original) A method of generating an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program when authorised in accordance with the method of claim 1, said method comprising the steps of:

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writing said additional computer program module;

generating signature data specific to said additional computer program module in dependence upon said additional computer program module using a tool produced by a provider of said core computer program;

associating said signature data with said additional computer program module; and

providing said additional computer program module with associated signature data to said new user.

21.   (Original) A method of generating an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program when authorised in accordance with the method of claim 1, said method comprising the steps of:

writing said additional computer program module;

providing said additional computer program module to a new user;

said new user associating user signature data with said additional computer program module;

providing said additional computer program module and associated user signature data to a provider of said core computer program;

said provider of said core computer program associating core signature data with said additional computer program module and associated user signature data;

providing said additional computer program module and associated user signature data and core signature data to said new user.

22.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus for authorising an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program, said core computer program being installed, said apparatus comprising:

first reading logic operable to read module signature data associated with said additional computer program module;

second reading logic operable to read core signature data and other signature data associated with said core computer program;

wherein said other signature data is user signature data;

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a comparitor operable to compare said module signature data with said core signature data and said ~~module~~ <u>user</u> signature data; and

authorisation refusal logic operable to refuse authorisation <u>of</u> said additional computer program module for use with said core computer program unless said module signature data matches at least one of said core signature data and said ~~other~~ <u>user</u> signature data;

<u>wherein the user signature data allows a particular user to authorize the additional computer program module for use with the installed core computer program.</u>

23.   (Cancelled)

24.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said additio<u>nal</u> computer program module is refused authorisation for use with said core computer program unless said module signature data matches both of said core signature data and said ~~other~~ <u>user</u> signature data.

25.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said module signature data, said core signature data and said ~~other~~ <u>user</u> signature data include public key infrastructure signatures.

26.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said ~~other~~ <u>user</u> signature data is associated with said core computer program upon installation of said core computer program.

27.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said ~~other~~ <u>user</u> signature data is embedded within said core computer program.

28.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 2~~3~~<u>2</u>, wherein said ~~other~~ <u>user</u> signature data is embedded within said core computer program by applying a user specific patch to said core computer program.

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29.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said core signature data is associated with said core computer program upon generation of said core computer program.

30.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein said core signature data is embedded within said core computer program.

31.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said core computer program is an anti-virus computer program.

32.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said anti-virus computer program operates with at least one updateable anti-virus computer program module.

33.   (Cancelled)

34.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said additional computer program module provides functionality independent of that of said core computer program.

35.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said additional computer program module ~~provides~~ does not relate to anti-virus protection.

36.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said additional computer program module is operable to patch an installed computer program.

37.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said additional computer program module is operable to install another computer program.

38.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus for generating an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program when authorised using the apparatus of claim 22, said apparatus comprising:

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a receiver operable to receive new user information from a new user of said additional computer program module;

a user signature generating logic operable to generate user signature data specific to said new user in dependence upon said new user information;

associating logic operable to associate said user signature data with an additional computer program module; and

transmission logic operable to provideing said additional computer program module with associated user signature data to said new user.

39.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein said user signature generating logic uses a tool produced by a provider of said core computer program.

40.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein said associating logic uses a tool produced by a provider of said core computer program.

41.   (Original) Apparatus for generating an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program when authorised using the apparatus of claim 22, said apparatus comprising:

signature generating logic operable to generate signature data specific to said additional computer program module in dependence upon said additional computer program module using a tool produced by a provider of said core computer program;

associating logic operable to associate said signature data with said additional computer program module; and

transmission logic operable to provide said additional computer program module with associated signature data to said new user.

42.   (Original) Apparatus of generating an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program when authorised using the apparatus of claim 22, said apparatus comprising:

first transmission logic operable to provide said additional computer program module to a new user;

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first associating logic operable to associate user signature data with said additional computer program module;

second transmission logic operable to provide said additional computer program module and associated user signature data to a provider of said core computer program;

second associating logic operable to associate core signature data with said additional computer program module and associated user signature data;

third transmission logic operable to provide said additional computer program module and associated user signature data and core signature data to said new user.

43.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product carrying a computer program for controlling a computer to authorise an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program, said core computer program being installed, said computer program comprising:

first reading code operable to read module signature data associated with said additional computer program module;

second reading code operable to read core signature data and other signature data associated with said core computer program;

wherein said other signature data is user signature data;

comparison code operable to compare said module signature data with said core signature data and said module signature data; and

authorisation refusal code operable to refuse authorisation of said additional computer program module for use with said core computer program unless said module signature data matches at least one of said core signature data and said other user signature data;

wherein the user signature data allows a particular user to authorize the additional computer program module for use with the installed core computer program.

44.   (Cancelled)

45.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 43, wherein said additional computer program module is refused authorisation for use with

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said core computer program unless said module signature data matches both of said core
signature data and said ~~other~~ user signature data.

46.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 43,
wherein said module signature data, said core signature data and said ~~other~~ user signature
data include public key infrastructure signatures.

47.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 43,
wherein said ~~other~~ user signature data is associated with said core computer program
upon installation of said core computer program.

48.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 47,
wherein said ~~other~~ user signature data is embedded within said core computer program.

49.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 44~~3~~,
wherein said ~~other~~ user signature data is embedded within said core computer program by
applying a user specific patch to said core computer program.

50.   (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 43, wherein said core
signature data is associated with said core computer program upon generation of said
core computer program.

51.   (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 50, wherein said core
signature data is embedded within said core computer program.

52.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 43, wherein said core computer
program is an anti-virus computer program.

53.   (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 52, wherein said anti-
virus computer program operates with at least one updateable anti-virus computer
program module.

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54.   (Cancelled)

55.   (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 43, wherein said
additional computer program module provides functionality independent of that of said
core computer program.

56.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 52,
wherein said additional computer program module ~~provides~~ does not relate to anti-virus
protection.

57.   (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 43, wherein said
additional computer program module is operable to patch an installed computer program.

58.   (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 43, wherein said
additional computer program module is operable to install another computer program.

59.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product carrying a computer program
for controlling a computer to generate an additional computer program module for use
with a core computer program when authorised using the computer program of claim 43,
said computer program comprising:
        receiver code operable to receive new user information from a new user of said
additional computer program module;
        user signature generating code operable to generate user signature data specific to
said new user in dependence upon said new user information;
        associating code operable to associate said user signature data with an additional
computer program module; and
        transmission code operable to provide~~ing~~ said additional computer program
module with associated user signature data to said new user.

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60.   (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 59, wherein said user signature generating code uses a tool produced by a provider of said core computer program.

61.   (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 59, wherein said associating code uses a tool produced by a provider of said core computer program.

62.   (Original) A computer program product carrying a computer program for controlling a computer to generate an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program when authorised using the computer program of claim 43, said computer program comprising:

        signature generating code operable to generate signature data specific to said additional computer program module in dependence upon said additional computer program module using a tool produced by a provider of said core computer program;

        associating code operable to associate said signature data with said additional computer program module; and

        transmission code operable to provide said additional computer program module with associated signature data to said new user.

63.   (Original) A computer program product carrying a computer program for controlling a computer to generate an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program when authorised using the computer program of claim 43, said computer program comprising:

        first transmission code operable to provide said additional computer program module to a new user;

        first associating code operable to associate user signature data with said additional computer program module;

        second transmission code operable to provide said additional computer program module and associated user signature data to a provider of said core computer program;

        second associating code operable to associate core signature data with said additional computer program module and associated user signature data;

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third transmission code operable to provide said additional computer program module and associated user signature data and core signature data to said new user.

64.   (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said user signature data is utilized to authorize said additional computer program module which is from a third party for use with said core computer program.

65.   (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said user signature data is utilized to authorize said additional computer program module which is generated by said user for use with said core computer program.

66.   (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said core computer program keeps a list of module providers which have been previously authorized by said user signature data, such that said user signature data becomes associated with additional computer program modules provided by module providers indicated on said list.

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